

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Project Location: Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (ODSVRA) adjacent to the community of Oceano off State Route 1 in San Luis Obispo County, California.

Project Description: The California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR), Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division (OHMVR Division), proposes to issue a special event permit for the Friends of Oceano Dunes (FoOD) annual 4th of July weekend Poker Run at ODSVRA on July 1 through 4, 2011. The Poker Run event would comprise safety displays and merchandising booths on four days (July 1-4, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.) and a non-timed poker run and raffle event on a single day (July 3, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.).

The event sponsors' pop-up shade structures and trailers would be placed in a portion of the camping area, which is already open to vehicle use, within a 200-foot by 150-foot area south of beach marker post 4. The Poker Run is a linear course roughly five miles long and can be driven in 30 to 45 minutes plus checkpoint stopping time. The six Poker Run checkpoints would be located within the dune portion of the park along the Sand Highway that is already open to riding. Each checkpoint would comprise a small card table and a pole with a flag and be staffed by one or two volunteers. It is anticipated up to 200 vehicles may drive the Poker Run course throughout the day between 9:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. when the checkpoints are open.

The Poker Run is a non-timed, non-race, self-guided activity during which participants visit the checkpoints where they select playing cards to gain points for poker hands. Participants can also gain points by picking up trash in the riding area. All participants would be paid camping or day use visitors, and all vehicles would be subject to the same sound restrictions and equipment requirements applicable to all SVRA visitors. All speed limit and other safety and resource-protective measures already in effect at the SVRA would apply to event participants. All pre-existing ODSVRA camping and vehicle limits would remain in effect during the event.

CDPR, OHMVR Division, has determined the project is subject to review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CDPR, OHMVR Division, is the Lead Agency under CEQA and has prepared an Initial Study and draft Negative Declaration (IS/ND) finding the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment.

Project Applicant: Friends of Oceano Dunes
855 E. Peralta
Fresno, CA 93704

Comment Period: In accordance with CEQA, CDPR is soliciting comments on the adequacy and completeness of the analysis described in the IS/ND for the project. The public comment period begins on May 27, 2011, and ends on June 25, 2011, at 5 p.m. No public meeting will be held. CDPR shall consider the IS and all written comments received by the close of the comment period prior to deciding whether to adopt the ND and approve the project.

Document Availability:

The IS/ND and all documents referenced therein are available for the 30-calendar day public review and comment period. During the review period, copies of the IS/ND and all documents will be available for review at the following locations:

- Oceano Dunes District Office
340 James Way, Ste. 270
Pismo Beach, CA 93449
(805) 773-7180
Contact – Ronnie Glick

- CDPR, OHMVR Division
1725 23rd Street, Suite 200, Sacramento, CA
(916) 445-9152
Contact – Ryan Miller
- Electronic copies of all documents can be viewed and downloaded from CDPR's website at ohv.parks.ca.gov, on the Oceano Dunes SVRA link.

How to Comment: Interested parties may provide written comments on the IS/ND, which must be **received** by CDPR no later than 5 p.m. on June 25, 2011. Written comments on the IS/ND may be provided by email to rglick@parks.ca.gov or be sent via U.S. mail or fax to the following address/fax number:

Attn: Ronnie Glick
Oceano Dunes District Office
340 James Way, Ste. 270
Pismo Beach, CA 93449
(805) 773-7176 fax

For further information, please call Ronnie Glick, Senior Environmental Scientist, at (805) 773-7180.